

Chapter 4 the Mongol Empire

1. Mongols : nomads who lived in the Mongolian plateau north of China
 - a. The Mongols were constantly fighting over grazing land
 - b. 1206: Genghis Kahn (universal ruler)
 - c. Lived from 1162 to 1227
 - d. Strengthened the Mongol tribes into a strong army
 - e. At his death, he ruled lands from Western Russia to Eastern Korea
 - f. Divided the Mongols by groups
 1. Trusted friends were leaders
 2. 1,000-10,000 under leadership
 3. Loyalty to the leader was supreme
 - a. If you began to support another leader, punishment was certain death
2. Great Yasa: code of law written by Genghis
 - a. Military
 - b. Criminal
 - c. Tax
 - d. Court
 - e. Moral issues
 - f. Punishment was death, fines, and beatings
3. Military Leadership
 - a. Born warriors
 - b. War was way of life
 - c. Fast and ruthless soldiers
 - d. Cavalry (horse troops)
 - e. Archers (bow and arrow troops)
 - Trained as young children
 - f. Wore very stiff armor and silk shirts
 - Arrows had a difficult time penetrating silk, this allowed the wound to be cleaner and heal faster
 - g. Laid siege to towns
 - Bombard towns and withhold food until the town gives up
 - Incendiary balls (similar to a bomb) to bombard
 - h. Pretend retreat
 - Pretending to be beaten, soldiers would retreat and hide
 - Thinking the invading army was gone, the town would venture out and then the Mongols would come out of hiding and attack the now defenseless city
 - i. Often destroyed town completely
 - j. Arrow riders

- Horse riders who travelled swiftly to keep Genghis aware of what was happening in his large kingdom

4. Life of the Mongols

- a. Land they lived in...
 - Received little rain
 - Experienced extreme changes in temperature
 - Desert like
- b. Camp where the general lived was called an ordu
 1. Always work to do
 - Make clothes
 - Build homes
 - Cook
 - Take care of children
- c. Known as “the people of round tents”
 1. Tents were called yurts
 2. Made in round shape
 3. Made out of a very light wood for ease of transport
 4. Covered with Felt
 - a. Animal skin greased to be waterproof
 - b. Whitewashed to reflect the sun helping to keep it cool in the summer
 - c. Doors were decorated making each tent unique
 - d. Moveable
 - e. Villages always set up facing south
 - f. Women lived on right side (east)
 - g. Men and visitors lived on the left side (west)
 - h. Used the walls for all sorts of stuff
 1. Idols
 2. Food
 3. Cooking bowls
 4. Weapons
 - i. Floor was covered with the rugs and skins
5. A woman’s work is never done
 - a. Women did most of the work
 1. Set up and tear yurts down when moving
 2. Drove the carts
 3. Made the clothes
 4. Cared for Livestock
 5. Cooked huge meals
 - No one was to wash the dishes or clothes.

- If a woman was caught doing so the other women would beat her
6. The ideal wife was...
 - a. Heavy set
 - b. Had small nose
 7. Wore a head dress that showed a woman's social status
 8. Horses
 - a. More important than wives
 - b. Learned to ride before they could walk
 - c. Always had extra horses so they were fresh
 - d. How many you had indicated how wealthy you were
 9. Men
 - a. Were ordered to hunt in the winter to keep them ready to fight wars in summer
 - b. Built carts and yurts
 - c. Made and repaired the weapons, saddles, and harnesses
 - d. Cared for the horses
 1. Captured
 2. Trained
 3. Milked
 - Kumiss: Common Mongol drink made from Mare's milk
 10. Leisure time
 - a. Storytelling
 - b. Music making
 - Khil -Khurr: long narrow stringed instrument played with a bow and often decorated with a horse's head
 11. Trading
 - a. Manufactured what they needed
 - b. Traded for goods such as
 - Silk
 - Cotton
 - Foodstuff
 - c. As the empire got bigger, so did the trade.
 1. By 1279, empire reached from Caspian Sea to Pacific ocean
 2. Reopened trade routes closed by Romans over 1000 years before
 3. Brought exotic goods from the far east to the middle east

- d. Mongols began to give up their nomadic ways and settled in towns
 - Began to lose desire to conquer other lands
- e. Kublai Khan (Genghis grandson) built a palace instead of a yurt
- f. After about 100 years, Muslim from the Middle East closed the trade routes and began to attack Constantinople.
- g. Eastern countries still wanted the far eastern goods so began looking for other ways to get the goods
- h. Sea travel opens up a whole new era of history...EXPLORATION

12. Religion of the Mongols

- a. Polytheistic
- b. Believed that good and evil spirits controlled the world
- c. Tengri : the great god of heaven is the supreme god who rules all the spirits
- d. Small idols made of felt that were sewn together by women at sewing parties
- e. "fed" the idols before each meal by smearing food on their lips
- f. Shamans
 - 1. Medicine men and witch doctors who claimed to have power over the spirits
 - 2. Consulted before any major decisions were made

13. Other different religion

- a. Nestorian Church
 - 1. Christian group also called "church of the East"
 - 2. Name for Nestorius a bishop of Constantinople
 - a. Accused of false teachings about Christ
 - b. Group claimed that neither they nor their founder were false teachers
 - c. The idea that they were possibly led by false teachers was enough for them to remain separated from the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox churches
 - 3. Came from Persia
 - a. Apostle Thomas took the gospel to India and from there it spread to the Mongol Empire

- b. Alopen was a Nestorian missionary who took the gospel to China before the Mongols began taking over there.
- c. Marco Polo is said to have found Nestorian Churches in his travels to China in the 1200's
- d. Nestorians were often persecuted
 - 1. Muslims forced them to convert
 - 2. Often forced to wear yellow stars saying they were Christians
 - 3. Forced to have special haircuts
- e. Mongolian leaders were friendly to the Nestorians at first
 - Intermarried with Genghis Khan's family
- f. Tamerlane (grandson to Genghis discussed later) persecuted them severely and killed so many of them that there were very few left
- g. Still can be found in remnants of the Mongol Empire, India, and through immigration in the U.S.

14. After Genghis Khan

- a. Genghis dies in 1227
- b. Sons let petty rivalries get in the way of the unity of the empire and it began to break down
- c. Kublai Khan
 - 1. 1279 Genghis grandson
 - 2. Set out to conquer China
 - 3. Kublai established the Yuan dynasty
 - a. China's first foreign dynasty
 - b. Mostly non Chinese (Mongolian) people to staff his empire
 - c. Still promoted Chinese Culture bringing very little change to that society
 - d. By 1368 Mongols were no longer in power in China

15. Russia and the Golden Horde

- a. Batu Khan (another grandson to Genghis)conquered Russia and maintained a loose alliance with Mongols
- b. 1243 settled in what is now Moscow
- c. Called Golden Horde by Russians

- d. Mongol conquest cut Russia from the discoveries of the Renaissance affecting culture
- e. Adopted Islam and this also affected the Russian culture
- f. By 1500, Mongols were no longer in charge in Russia

16. Timur the Lame (A.K.A. Tamerlane)

- a. Leader of Mongols
- b. Handicapped as child
- c. Powerful and cruel leader
- d. Extended empire from Turkey to India

17. Mughul Dynasty in India

- a. Brought peace to India
- b. Brought artistic achievement to India
- c. Most famous leader: Akbar
 - Extended empire to cover all but southern portion of India
 - Taj Mahal built during this time